



# DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## FINANCIAL AID DEVELOPMENTS

By Kim Slote, Assistant Associate

### CAMPUS-BASED PROGRAMS

An [Electronic Announcement](#) was published by the USDE Aug. 3, 2020: Fiscal Operations Report for 2019-2020 and Application to Participate for 2021-2022 (FISAP) Reporting Instructions and Additional Flexibilities Under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). Instructions on supplemental FISAP reporting, due to the CARES Act, are provided in the announcement. The FISAP must be submitted on or before 11:59 pm Eastern Time on Monday, Nov. 2, 2020.

On Aug. 28, 2020, the USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#): 2020-2021 Supplemental Campus-Based Funds. Information provided in the announcement explains how 2020-2021 supplemental award funds for each campus-based program will be distributed. Schools will be notified by email by the end of Sep. 2020 if they received supplemental Campus-Based funds.

### INTEREST RATES

Three Federal Register Notices regarding updates to interest rates were published by the USDE in Aug. The announcements are listed below with the date of publication.

- [FFEL Variable Rate Notice for 2020-2021 – Aug. 10, 2020](#)
- [Direct Loan Variable Rate Notice for 2020-2021 – Aug. 10, 2020](#)
- [Direct Loan Fixed Rate Notice for 2020-2021 – Aug. 10, 2020](#)

### REFERENCE GUIDES

The updated reference guides listed were published by the USDE in Aug. The guides listed are linked with the corresponding electronic announcement with the date of publication.

- [2021-2022 Expected Family Contribution \(EFC\) Formula Guide – Aug. 11, 2020](#)
- [Volume 4 – Processing Aid and Managing FSA Funds \[2020-2021 Federal Student Aid Handbook\] – Aug. 27, 2020](#)

### TECHNICAL

In Aug., the USDE published the following technical updates. The electronic announcements listed are linked with the date of publication.

- [2021-2022 Summary of Changes for the Application Processing System Guide – Aug. 13, 2020](#)



# DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## FINANCIAL AID DEVELOPMENTS

By Kim Slote, Assistant Associate

- [EDEXpress for Windows 2021-2022 Packaging Technical Reference – Aug. 17, 2020](#)
- [Updated EDESuite Operating System Requirements Begin with EDEXpress 2021-2022, DL Tools Release 21.0 – Aug. 27, 2020](#)

## TEACH GRANT PROGRAM

A [Federal Register Notice](#) was issued Aug. 14, 2020: Final Rule: TEACH Grant Program. The regulations regarding eligibility of faith-based institutions to participate in Federal Student Aid programs and students ability to obtain benefits under those programs are amended. Provisions of the TEACH Grant Program have also been changed to minimize grants converting to loans and to update, strengthen and clarify other areas. The effective date is July 1, 2021, unless implemented early.

## PROGRAM COMPLIANCE

On Aug. 14, 2020, the USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#): New Document Center for Program Compliance Documents. The new Partner Eligibility and Oversight Services (PEOS) Document Center is now available on the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) website. It is a centralized electronic repository of program compliance documents, uploaded by schools

and affiliated third-party servicers. Program compliance documents support five core business processes of PEOS.

- Eligibility and certification
- Audit resolution
- Program review
- Financial analysis
- Method of payment

An online training module is available on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) website at: <https://ifap.ed.gov/ilibrary/document-types/podcast>.

## FRAUD RING REPORTING

An [Electronic Announcement](#) was published by the USDE Aug. 21, 2020: Fraud in Postsecondary Distance Education Programs (fraud rings) Reporting Change. The USDE Office of Inspector General has modified the spreadsheet used to report fraud rings. A copy of the updated spreadsheet is attached to the announcement. The email previously used to report fraud rings is no longer in use. Institutions must now submit fraud ring complaints through the USDE OIG encrypted complaint web portal at <https://oighotlineportal.ed.gov>. Instructions for how to report fraud rings using the portal are provided.



# DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## FINANCIAL AID DEVELOPMENTS

By Kim Slote, Assistant Associate

### CORONAVIRUS FLEXIBILITIES

The USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#) Aug. 21, 2020: Updated deadlines for flexibilities related to Coronavirus (COVID-19). Flexibilities related to COVID-19 were initially outlined in electronic announcements published on March 5, April 3, May 15, July 9 and July 10, 2020. The deadline for those flexibilities to end has been extended through the end of the payment period that includes Dec. 31, 2020 or the end of the payment period that includes the end date for the federally-declared emergency, whichever is later. The few exceptions to the new deadline listed below are provided in the announcement.

- Campus-Based Matching Requirements
- Leave of Absence
- Return of Title IV Funds
- Foreign Institutions
- Academic Calendars
- Reporting and Audit Requirements

### FEDERAL PELL GRANTS

On Aug. 24, 2020, the USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#): Second Pell Grant Administrative Cost Allowance Payments for 2019-2020 Award Year. The announcement explains which students a school is eligible to receive ACA payments

for and indicates that funds may only be used to defray the costs of administering the Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Federal Work-Study and Federal Perkins Loan programs. The USDE began processing the second ACA payments for all schools on Aug. 20, 2020 and includes those records processed by the COD System from Feb. 27, 2020. Contact information is provided for those schools that need assistance regarding their ACA payments.

Another [Electronic Announcement](#) was published by the USDE Aug. 24, 2020: Third and Final Pell Grant Administrative Cost Allowance Payments for 2018-2019 Award Year. This announcement indicates the third and final ACA payments for the 2018-2019 award year were deposited for all schools beginning Aug. 20, 2020 and includes those records processed by the COD System from Aug. 20, 2019. Contact information is provided for those schools that need assistance regarding their ACA payments.

### FAFSA

The USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#) Aug. 27, 2020: 2021-2022 fafsa.gov Preview Presentation. The Microsoft PowerPoint presentation attached to the announcement contains information and screen shots of the [fafsa.gov website](https://fafsa.gov) to



# DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## **FINANCIAL AID DEVELOPMENTS**

**By Kim Slote, Assistant Associate**

assist the community with the 2021-2022 FAFSA processing cycle. Financial aid administrators, mentors and counselors can use the presentation as a reference tool for internal staff training and high school night presentations. The 2021-2022 Web Demonstration will be available in late Sep. at <https://fafsademotest.ed.gov>.

## **GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS**

On Aug. 31, 2020, the USDE issued a [Federal Register Notice](#): Notice of the Rescission of Outdated Guidance Documents. The notice provides lists of guidance documents rescinded. The documents are outdated or superseded by subsequent statutory amendments or enactments. These rescissions do not include policy changes or statutory interpretation by the USDE.